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Thailand

Livestock and Products

Updated BSE Requirement 2003

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Report Highlights:

Thailand now requires an additional statement on FSIS certificate of wholesomeness: "The United States meets or exceeds all of the international guidelines to be considered free of BSE."

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

THAILAND UPDATES BSE REQUIREMENT FOR IMPORTS OF U.S. BEEF PRODUCTS

The Department of Livestock Development (DLD) of the Royal Thai Ministry of Agricultural and Cooperatives now require the statement recommended by FSIS for beef products, *"The United States meets or exceeds all of the international guidelines to be considered free of BSE."* Post secured this assurance on July 29, 2003, from the Director of Animal Quarantine and Inspection Service, Bureau of Animal Disease and Veterinary Service, Department of Livestock Development, after discussing a suggested statement provided by the DLD (see below). The inclusion of this statement on the FSIS certificates of wholesomeness will reopen trade between Thailand and the U.S. in beef products. Trade was closed shortly after the Thai government learned of the case of BSE in the Canadian herd. To date, the impact on U.S. trade has been minimal.

With the occurrence of the BSE case in Canada in early June 2003, Post provided the Royal Thai Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Department of Livestock Development, with a letter regarding the status of the control and preventive measures for BSE in the U.S. The backgrounder released by USDA on June 6, 2003, accompanied the letter. In response to this initial letter, the Ministry of Agricultural and Cooperatives issued a letter that read as follows:

"Thank you very much for your letter dated June 10, 2003 which you kindly clarified the status of the control and preventive measures for BSE of the United States, regarding the cattle import from Canada. We are very pleased with the information in the release backgrounder of the United State of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration which the strong efforts of the U.S. Government on BSE surveillance and prevention are able to ensure us the safety of the import commodities related to livestock the U.S. Therefore, the import from the U.S. will promptly be resumed provided that the additional of a phrase of "The United States meets the existing OIE or international guidelines on BSE freedom" must be stated in the health certificate accompany every shipment of the import commodities to Thailand. We would like to thank you very much for your kind cooperation."

Post asks USDA to advise U.S. exporters of this new export certification requirement.